

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method of managing a delivery schedule of an order using a system configured with a server which includes a goods delivery system, the system including at least one computing unit networked to the server, the order being delivered from at least one supplier to a respective delivery agent, and from the respective delivery agent to a respective buyer, wherein the order comprises order information, said method comprising the steps of:

(1) calculating a first potential arrival date of the order to a respective delivery agent's location using the server system based on [[the]] an order request date and [[the]] a respective buyer's address;

(2) determining [[the]] an ability of the respective delivery agent to ship the order based on the first potential arrival date ~~request~~;

(3) determining a delivery date to the respective buyer when there is sufficient delivery agent capacity to ship the order to the respective buyer's address;
and

(4) updating an electronic manifest indicating the delivery date of the order and a change in delivery agent capacity for the delivery date; and

(5) allowing an order change that affects the delivery date of the order to be made by a user that is authorized by one of the respective delivery agent, the respective buyer, the at least one supplier, a store, or a logistics intermediary, wherein allowance of the order change is based on: (a) a type of order change, (b) whether the user is acting as the respective delivery agent, the respective buyer, the at least one supplier, the store, or the logistics intermediary, (c) a level of the user, and (d) a security code, wherein, upon allowance of the order change, steps (1), (2), (3) and (4) are repeated to determine a new delivery date.

2. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of calculating a first potential arrival date of the order further comprises the step of selecting the first potential arrival date from a supplier ship schedule based on the day the order is placed plus a fixed delay.

3. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 2, wherein the step of determining [[the]] an ability of the respective delivery agent to ship further comprises the step of calculating [[the]] a number of slots to be shipped from a work unit matrix.

4. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 3, further comprises the step of multiplying each item in the order by a work unit selected from [[a]] the work unit matrix to determine the number of slots for ~~each~~ the order.

5. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 3, wherein the step of determining a delivery date to the respective buyer when there is sufficient capacity to ship the order further ~~comprising~~ comprises the step of determining [[the]] a first available date to completely ship the order to the respective buyer based on a capacity matrix and based on [[the]] a number of available ~~delivery~~ slots.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 3, further comprising the step of getting [[the]] a zip code to which the order is to be delivered and [[the]] a brand of [[the]] a respective good in the order.

8. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 7, further comprising the step of getting ~~a respective~~ the supplier ship schedule based on the zip code and the brand of the respective good ordered.

9. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 8, further comprising the step of selecting [[a]] the respective delivery agent and a respective capacity matrix based on the zip code of the order.

10. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 9, further comprising the step of determining [[the]] a first potential ship date to the respective buyer's address based on the capacity of the respective delivery agent and the delivery schedule of the respective delivery agent.

11. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of allowing an order change that affects the delivery date of the order to be made further comprises the step of allowing [[an]] the order change to be made using an external order interface.

12. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of updating the electronic manifest with status information.

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of calculating a first potential arrival date of the order to a respective delivery agent's location further comprises calculating a first potential arrival date of the order, wherein said the order information comprises data selected from the group including, the order request date, [[the]] a model number, [[the]] a quantity of items, [[the]] a brand of [[the]] an item, [[the]] a service to be selected, [[the]] a requested delivery date, the respective buyer's delivery address, [[the]] a security level clearance, and status information.

15. (currently amended) A method of managing a delivery schedule of an order using a system configured with a server which includes a goods delivery system, the system including at least one computing unit networked to the server, the order being delivered from at least one supplier to a respective delivery agent, and from the respective delivery agent to a respective buyer, wherein the order comprises order information, said method comprising the steps of:

(1) calculating a first potential arrival date of the order to a respective delivery agent's location using the server system based on ~~[[the]]~~ an order request date and ~~[[the]]~~ a respective buyer's address;

(2) determining ~~[[the]]~~ an ability of the respective delivery agent to ship the order within a set of potential delivery dates based on the first potential arrival date ~~request~~ and ~~[[the]]~~ a first date ~~[[a]]~~ the respective delivery agent is prepared to ship the ~~goods~~ order; and

(3) selecting ~~[[the]]~~ an actual delivery date from ~~said~~ the set of potential delivery dates;

(4) updating an electronic manifest indicating the actual delivery date of the order and a change in delivery agent capacity for the delivery date; and

(5) allowing an order change that affects the actual delivery date of the order to be made by a user that is authorized by one of the respective delivery agent, the respective buyer, the at least one supplier, a store, or a logistics intermediary, wherein allowance of the order change is based on: (a) a type of order change, (b) whether the user is acting as the respective delivery agent, the respective buyer, the at least one supplier, the store, or the logistics intermediary, (c) a level of the user, and (d) a security code, wherein, upon allowance of the order change, steps (1), (2), (3) and (4) are repeated to determine a new actual delivery date.

16. (original) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 10, wherein the step of calculating a first potential arrival date of the order further comprises the step of selecting the first potential arrival date from a supplier ship schedule based on the day the order is placed plus a fixed delay.

17. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 16, wherein the step of determining ~~[[the]]~~ an ability of the respective delivery agent to

ship further comprises the step of calculating ~~[[the]]~~ a number of slots to be shipped from a work unit matrix.

18. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 17, further ~~comprises~~ comprising the step of multiplying each item in the order by a work unit selected from ~~[[a]]~~ the work unit matrix to determine the number of slots for ~~each~~ the order.

19. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 17, wherein the step of ~~determining when there is sufficient capacity to ship the order~~ selecting an actual delivery date from the set of potential delivery dates further ~~comprising~~ comprises the step of determining ~~[[the]]~~ a first available date to completely ship the order to the respective buyer based on a capacity matrix and based on ~~[[the]]~~ a number of available delivery slots.

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 17, further comprising the step of getting ~~[[the]]~~ a zip code to which the order is to be delivered and ~~[[the]]~~ a brand of ~~[[the]]~~ a respective good in the order.

22. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 21, further comprising the step of getting ~~[[a]]~~ the respective supplier ship schedule based on the zip code and the brand of the respective good ordered.

23. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 22, further comprising the step of selecting the respective delivery agent and a respective capacity matrix based on the zip code of the order.

24. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 23, further comprising the step of determining ~~[[the]]~~ a first potential ship date to the respective buyer's address based on the capacity of the respective delivery agent and ~~[[the]]~~ a delivery schedule of the respective delivery agent.

25. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 15, wherein the step of calculating a first potential arrival date of the order to a respective delivery agent's location further comprises calculating a first potential arrival date of the order, wherein said the order information comprises data selected from the group including, the order request date, [[the]] a model number, [[the]] a quantity of items, [[the]] a brand of [[the]] an item, [[the]] a service to be selected, [[the]] a requested delivery date, the respective buyer's delivery address, [[the]] a security level clearance, and status information.

26. (currently amended) A computer program storage medium readable by a computer system and encoding a computer program of instructions for executing a computer process for managing deliveries of a goods delivery system, the system employed to deliver an order from at least one supplier to a respective delivery agent, and from the respective delivery agent to a respective buyer, given order information, said computer process comprising the steps of:

(1) determining a first potential arrival date of the order to a respective delivery agent's location, based on [[the]] an order request date and [[the]] a respective buyer's address;

(2) determining [[the]] an ability of the respective delivery agent to ship the order based on the first potential arrival date request;

(3) determining a delivery date to the respective buyer when there is sufficient delivery agent capacity to ship the order to the respective buyer's address;
and

(4) updating an electronic manifest indicating the delivery date of the order and a change in delivery agent capacity for the delivery date; and

(5) allowing an order change that affects the delivery date of the order to be made by a user that is authorized by one of the respective delivery agent, the respective buyer, the at least one supplier, a store, or a logistics intermediary, wherein

allowance of the order change is based on: (a) a type of order change, (b) whether the user is acting as the respective delivery agent, the respective buyer, the at least one supplier, the store, or the logistics intermediary, (c) a level of the user, and (d) a security code, wherein, upon allowance of the order change, steps (1), (2), (3) and (4) are repeated to determine a new delivery date.

27. (previously presented) The computer process as recited in claim 26, further comprises the step of calculating a first potential arrival date of the order wherein the step of calculating a first potential arrival date of the order further comprises the step of selecting the first potential arrival date from a supplier ship schedule based on the day the order is placed plus a fixed delay.

28. (currently amended) The computer process as recited in claim 27, wherein the step of determining ~~[[the]]~~ an ability of the respective delivery agent to ship further comprises the step of calculating ~~[[the]]~~ a number of slots to be shipped from a work unit matrix.

29. (currently amended) The computer process as recited in claim 28, further comprises the step of multiplying each item in the order by a work unit selected from ~~[[a]]~~ the work unit matrix to determine the number of slots for ~~each~~ the order.

30. (currently amended) The computer process as recited in claim 29, wherein the step of determining a delivery date to the respective buyer when there is sufficient capacity to ship the order further ~~comprising~~ comprises the step of determining ~~[[the]]~~ a first available date to completely ship the order to the respective buyer based on a capacity matrix and based on the number of available ~~delivery~~ slots.

31. (canceled)

32. (currently amended) The computer process as recited in claim 28, further comprising the step of getting ~~[[the]]~~ a zip code to which the order is to be delivered and ~~[[the]]~~ a brand of ~~[[the]]~~ a respective good in the order.

33. (currently amended) The computer process as recited in claim 32, further comprising the step of getting a ~~respective~~ the supplier ship schedule based on the zip code and the brand of the respective good ordered.

34. (currently amended) The computer process as recited in claim 33, further comprising the step of selecting ~~[[a]]~~ the respective delivery agent and a respective capacity matrix based on the zip code of the order.

35. (currently amended) The computer process as recited in claim 34, further comprising the step of determining ~~[[the]]~~ a first potential ship date to the respective buyer's address based on the capacity of the respective delivery agent and the delivery schedule of the respective delivery agent.

36. (currently amended) The computer process as recited in claim 26, wherein the step of allowing an order change that affects the delivery date of the order to be made further comprises the step of allowing ~~[[an]]~~ the order change to be made using an external order interface.

37. (original) The computer process as recited in claim 36, further comprising the step of updating the electronic manifest with status information.

38. (canceled)

39. (currently amended) The computer process as recited in claim 26, wherein the step of determining a first potential arrival date of the order to a respective delivery agent's location further comprises determining a first potential arrival date of the order, wherein said the order information comprises ~~data selected from the group including,~~ the order request date, ~~[[the]]~~ a model number, ~~[[the]]~~ a quantity of items, ~~[[the]]~~ a brand of ~~[[the]]~~ an item, ~~[[the]]~~ a service to be selected, ~~[[the]]~~ a requested delivery date, the respective buyer's delivery address, ~~[[the]]~~ a security level clearance, and status information.

40. (currently amended) An apparatus for managing the delivery of an order from at least one supplier to a respective delivery agent, and from the respective delivery agent to a respective buyer, given order information, said apparatus comprising:

means for determining a first potential arrival date of the order to a respective delivery agent's location, based on ~~[[the]]~~ an order request date and ~~[[the]]~~ a respective buyer's address;

means for determining ~~[[the]]~~ an ability of the respective delivery agent to ship the order based on the first potential arrival date ~~request~~;

means for determining a delivery date to the respective buyer when there is sufficient delivery agent capacity to ship the order to the respective buyer's address;

means for updating an electronic manifest indicating ~~[[the]]~~ an order ship date and ~~the additional~~ a change in delivery agent capacity utilized for the delivery date; and

means for allowing an order change that affects the delivery date of the order to be made by a user that is authorized by one of the respective delivery agent, the respective buyer, the at least one supplier, a store, or a logistics intermediary, wherein allowance of the order change is based on: (a) a type of order change, (b) whether the user is acting as the respective delivery agent, the respective buyer, the at least one supplier, the store, or the logistics intermediary, (c) a level of the user, and (d) a security code, wherein, upon allowance of the order change, said apparatus determines a new delivery date and updates the electronic manifest.

41. (currently amended) A method of managing a delivery schedule of a multiple brand order using a system configured with a server which includes a goods delivery system, the system including at least one computing unit networked to the server, the multiple brand order being delivered from at least two suppliers to a respective delivery agent, and from the

respective delivery agent to a respective buyer, wherein the multiple brand order comprises order information, said method comprising the steps of:

(1) ___ calculating a first potential arrival date of the multiple brand order to a respective delivery agent's location using the server system based on [[the]] an order request date and [[the]] a respective buyer's address;

(2) ___ determining [[the]] an ability of the respective delivery agent to ship the multiple brand order from the at least two suppliers based on the first potential arrival date request;

(3) ___ determining a delivery date to the respective buyer when there is sufficient delivery agent capacity to ship the multiple brand order to the respective buyer's address; and

(4) ___ updating an electronic manifest indicating the delivery date of the multiple brand order and a change in delivery agent capacity for the delivery date; and

(5) ___ allowing an order change that affects the delivery date of the multiple brand order to be made by a user that is authorized by one of the respective delivery agent, the respective buyer, the at least two suppliers, a store, or a logistics intermediary, wherein allowance of the order change is based on: (a) a type of order change, (b) whether the user is acting as the respective delivery agent, the respective buyer, one of the at least two suppliers, the store, or the logistics intermediary, (c) a level of the user, and (d) a security code, wherein, upon allowance of the order change, steps (1), (2), (3) and (4) are repeated to determine a new delivery date.

42. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 41, wherein the step of calculating a first potential arrival date of the multiple brand order further comprises the step of selecting the first potential arrival date from a supplier ship schedule from each of the at least two suppliers ~~of said supplier ship schedules~~ based on the day the multiple brand order is placed plus a fixed delay.

43. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 42, wherein the step of determining ~~[[the]]~~ an ability of the respective delivery agent to ship further comprises the step of calculating ~~[[the]]~~ a number of slots to be shipped from a work unit matrix.

44. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 43, further comprises the step of multiplying each item in the multiple brand order by a work unit selected from ~~[[a]]~~ the work unit matrix to determine the number of slots for ~~each~~ the multiple brand order.

45. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 43, wherein the step of determining a delivery date to the respective buyer when there is sufficient capacity to ship the multiple brand order further ~~comprising~~ comprises the step of determining ~~[[the]]~~ a first available date to completely ship the multiple brand order to the respective buyer based on a capacity matrix and based on the number of available ~~delivery~~ slots.

46. (canceled)

47. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 43, further comprising the step of getting ~~[[the]]~~ a zip code to which the multiple brand order is to be delivered and ~~[[the]]~~ a brand of at least one respective good in the multiple brand order.

48. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 47, further comprising the step of getting ~~a-respective~~ each of the supplier ship ~~schedule~~ schedules based on the zip code and the brand of the at least one respective good ordered.

49. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 48, further comprising the step of selecting ~~[[a]]~~ the respective delivery agent and ~~[[a]]~~ the respective capacity matrix based on the zip code of the multiple brand order.

50. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 49, further comprising the step of determining ~~[[the]]~~ a first potential ship date to the respective buyer's address based on the capacity of the respective delivery agent and the delivery schedule of the respective delivery agent.

51. (currently amended) A method of managing a delivery schedule of a multiple brand order using a system configured with a server which includes a goods delivery system, the system including at least one computing unit networked to the server, the order being delivered from at least two suppliers to a respective delivery agent, and from the respective delivery agent to a respective buyer, wherein the multiple brand order comprises order information, said method comprising the steps of:

(1) calculating a first potential arrival date of the multiple brand order to a respective delivery agent's location using the server system based on ~~[[the]]~~ an order request date and ~~[[the]]~~ a respective buyer's address;

(2) determining ~~[[the]]~~ an ability of the respective delivery agent to ship the multiple brand order from the at least two suppliers based on the first potential arrival date request;

(3) determining a delivery date to the respective buyer when there is sufficient delivery agent capacity to ship the multiple brand order to the respective buyer's address; and

(4) updating an electronic manifest indicating the delivery date of the multiple brand order and a change in delivery agent capacity for the delivery date; and

(5) allowing an order change that affects the delivery date of the multiple brand order to be made by a user that is authorized by one of the respective delivery agent, the respective buyer, the at least two suppliers, a store, or a logistics intermediary, wherein allowance of the order change is based on: (a) a type of order change, (b) whether the user is acting as the respective delivery agent, the respective

buyer, one of the at least two suppliers, the store, or the logistics intermediary, (c) a level of the user, and (d) a security code, wherein, upon allowance of the order change, steps (1), (2), (3) and (4) are repeated to determine a new delivery date.

52. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 51, wherein the step of calculating a first potential arrival date of the multiple brand order further comprises the step of selecting the first potential arrival date from a supplier ship schedule from each of the at least two suppliers of said supplier ship schedules based on the day the multiple brand order is placed plus a fixed delay.

53. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 52, wherein the step of determining ~~[[the]]~~ an ability of the respective delivery agent to ship further comprises the step of calculating the number of slots to be shipped from a work unit matrix.

54. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 53, further comprises the step of multiplying each item in the multiple brand order by a work unit selected from ~~[[a]]~~ the work unit matrix to determine ~~[[the]]~~ a number of slots for ~~each~~ the multiple brand order.

55. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 53, wherein the step of determining a delivery date to the respective buyer when there is sufficient capacity to ship the multiple brand order further ~~comprising~~ comprises the step of determining ~~[[the]]~~ a first available date to completely ship the multiple brand order to the respective buyer based on a capacity matrix and based on the number of available ~~delivery~~ slots.

56. (canceled)

57. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 53, further comprising the step of getting ~~[[the]]~~ a zip code to which the multiple brand

order is to be delivered and [[the]] a brand of at least one respective good in the multiple brand order.

58. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 57, further comprising the step of getting ~~a respective~~ each of the supplier ship ~~schedule~~ schedules based on the zip code and the brand of the at least one respective good ordered.

59. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 58, further comprising the step of selecting [[a]] the respective delivery agent and [[a]] the respective capacity matrix based on the zip code of the multiple brand order.

60. (currently amended) The method of managing the delivery schedule as recited in claim 59, further comprising the step of determining [[the]] a first potential ship date to the respective buyer's address based on the capacity of the respective delivery agent and the delivery schedule of the respective delivery agent.